

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I always thought there was a responsibility to have equal time in an election campaign. Pre-empting regular programming for this biased account without the balance of a responsive program showing the other point of view seems like a misuse of their license.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. With this comes an obligation to be impartial and serve the public with a balance of information in their reporting. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.